

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 FTC-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/B:MWCOTTER:EO

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES (DRAFT)

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O 212130Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EIND, BL

SUBJECT: GULF OIL

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WERE PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S MAY 21 PRESS BRIEFING FOR USE ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS.

2. QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS THAT THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FILED CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST GULF OIL AND ARRESTED THE GULF REPRESENTATIVE IN LA PAZ (WHO IS A BOLIVIAN NATIONAL) IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAYMENT OF "POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS" IN THAT COUNTRY?

ANSWER: AS WE STATED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION RECENTLY, SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTERS ARE ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN THE PARTIES DIRECTLY

INVOLVED. WE, OF COURSE, HAVE A GENERAL INTEREST TO THE EXTENT OF INSURING THAT U.S. CITIZENS AND COMPANIES ARE AFFORDED DUE PROCESS UNDER LOCAL LAW. AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, YOU WILL HAVE TO REFER TO THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA AND THE GULF CORPORATION.

3. QUESTION: HOW WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACT IF BOLIVIA WERE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CUT OFF PAYMENTS

TO GULF FOR ITS EXPROPRIATED PROPERTIES?

ANSWER: THAT IS A HIGHLY SPECULATIVE QUESTION AND I WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO ANSWER IT.

4. QUESTION: HAS EITHER THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT OR GULF BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE HAD CONTACTS WITH BOTH PARTIES WHO HAVE MADE THEIR POSITIONS KNOWN TO US.

5. NO QUESTIONS THIS SUBJECT WERE RAISED AT MAY 21 BRIEFING. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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